

Wycombe make Higgins pay for only mistake

BROMLEY 0. WYCOMBE WANDERERS 1

BROMLEY'S reliable goalkeeper Peter Higgins looked unbeatable for the majority of Saturday's Isthmian League game, but his only mistake gave third-in-the-table Wycombe a win they did not deserve.

For long periods left-back Kevin Sheehan subdued Wycombe star Len Worley, perhaps the greatest amateur winger this country has produced. And with 17-year-old Kidbrooke lad Colin Brown, one of three former Charlton Colts in the side, shining in his senior debut, Bromley looked good value for a point.

Indeed, they were on top when Wycombe's international inside-left Tony Horseman took advantage of Higgins' slip in the 65th minute to get what is believed to be his 250th goal for the club—more than any other Wycombe player has managed.

Wycombe are the fourth club to complete a "double" over lowly Bromley this season, the others being Walthamstow, Woking and Hendon. Now Bromley are without a win in their last four games—no doubt, had their previous week's game against powerful Sutton not been postponed that would have ended in another defeat. The reasons? Bad luck, lack of skill and slowness in attack where there is a shortage of punch.

PITCH CLEARED

Bromley had feared Saturday's game would be called off on Friday when the pitch was covered in 4ins. of snow. However, they cleared it by

Friday evening and produced the best conditions for a month.

Although Wycombe dominated the early stages, the best two chances fell to Bromley. But the lively Tait, preferred to Clements and Amato, failed to dribble around keeper Maskell and then three Bromley forwards missed a centre from Bridge.

Stonebridge, moved up from midfield in Bromley's 4-3-3 formation to act as striker with Coppin and Tait, often found himself facing three opponents due to his colleagues not running off the ball. This was the case in the 20th minute, but Stonebridge managed to slip two tackles and fire in a hard shot that Maskell did well to hold.

The fact that Tait was instructed by knowledgeable team manager Micky Acland to help Sheehan mark Worley, meant that although Bromley made things tough for Worley they were sometimes down to two front-runners.

Fortunately Pat Brown and Co. mastered Wycombe in the air. However, on one occasion Bonney hesitated, allowing the bearded Samuels to get in a fierce drive that Higgins somehow kept out.

Sheehan was containing Worley better than any previous Bromley full-back, but in the 37th minute Worley shook him off and fired only inches wide. Then Baker hammered in a long range effort that flashed past a post.

Stonebridge, a little slow off the mark in the first half, raced through to shoot narrowly wide for Bromley one minute after the interval.

BACK-HEEL FLICK

Wycombe centre-half Rundle carried on after hurting his ankle in a clash with Tait, but was limping slightly. He was beaten by Coppin in the 55th minute and from Coppin's pass Tait almost deceived Maskell with a back-heel flick.

Maskell then saved from Tait, Coppin and Stonebridge and snatched the ball off the head of Pat Brown following a Tait corner.

It was a tragedy for Bromley, therefore, when Wycombe grabbed the lead. Higgins failed to hold a corner from Slater and Horseman slammed in his 33rd goal for Wycombe this season from close range.

After Worley had scrapped the angle of the post and bar, Wycombe deteriorated and Samuels sent one shot out of the ground. Bromley had also fallen away and when Worley found the net, they were pleased to hear the off-side whistle sound against another Wycombe forward.

Bromley: Higgins; Bridge, Sheehan; Bonney, Brown, C. Brown; Stonebridge, Wighton, Jones, Tait. Sub.: Scott (not needed).

Wycombe Wanderers: Maskell; Temel, Gale; Lulley, Rundle, Thomas; Worley, Baker, Samuels, Horseman, Slater. Sub.: Busby (not needed).